GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2177
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2016
Zika Virus
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Zika virus has spread in the country, if so, the details thereof along with the number of cases/deaths reported, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Government has constituted Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) and also prepared plan to monitor the spread of Zika virus in the country;

(c) if so, the details of the observations and recommendations of the JMG along with the schemes/plans evolved for prevention and treatment of the diseases caused by Zika virus and diagnostic facilities available;

(d) whether the first phase of human clinical trial of a vaccine for Zika virus has
begun, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the further steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)

(a): No case of Zika virus disease has been reported in India so far.

(b) to (e): A Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) is in existence under Director General of Health Services since 2006 for monitoring and instituting appropriate public health measures for emerging diseases like Influenza, Ebola virus disease, Zika virus disease etc. This Group has been monitoring the situation arising from the reported cases of Zika virus disease in certain countries.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India has taken series of measures to prevent/control outbreak of Zika virus disease in India based on the recommendations of the JMG and the inputs received from World Health Organization.

Technical guidelines and travel advisory were issued and disseminated on 2nd February, 2016. National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi has been identified as the nodal agency for investigation of outbreak, if it has to happen in any part of the country.

Fifteen International Airports and nine major ports have displayed signages providing information for travelers on Zika virus disease and advising the travellers to report if they are returning from any of the affected countries and suffering from febrile illness. Immigration authorities at these Airports have been sensitized. Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Civil Aviation has issued instruction to all international airlines to follow the recommended aircraft dis-insection guidelines. The Airport Health Officers are monitoring appropriate vector control measures in Airport premises and in the defined perimeter. National Centre for Disease Control, Delhi and National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, have established the capacity to provide laboratory diagnosis of Zika virus disease. 13 additional laboratories have been identified to test samples of Zika. The list of laboratories is at Annexure.

National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme has alerted all its field units for enhanced vector (Aedes mosquitoes) control. National AIDS Control Organization has issued advisory for blood banks and potential blood donors to prevent transmission of Zika virus infection by blood transfusion. The Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram (RBSK) has instituted surveillance for weekly reporting of Microcephaly from about 50 identified health institutions.

All guidance documents, fact sheet and frequently asked questions have been put up on the website of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

A 24x7 control room cum Help Line is functioning in Dte. GHS. Public has been made aware about Zika virus disease through press releases issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The situation is being monitored regularly.

Currently, there is no vaccine available to prevent Zika virus disease. Indian Council of Medical Research has not vetted any vaccine for Zika virus disease.